APA Format Ashley Hamer

Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

Sequential Development 19 November 2009

Point of View

Thesis Statement

1980’s Medicine and Health

Did you ever wonder when many of the diseases and illnesses that occur today came about in the World? Or what causes these types of problems which can cause death or serious illness. Throughout the 1980s there were many different diseases, syndromes and different inventions that all had things in common with medicine and health. Some of these inventions were very helpful and could even save lives, while on the other side, some of these diseases and syndromes were deadly and some didn’t have a cause to what brought then about and how to get rid of them.

One major illness throughout the 1980’s was the disease of AIDS, (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) According to the book of American Decades, this disease burst on the world scene in a terrible way as a new *plague* striking mankind. When this disease was first discovered by the Americans, it was linked to sex, blood and drugs. AIDS can be caused by an infectious disease and also can be caused by some certain but unusual cancers. AIDS is something that needs to be taken very seriously. This virus can also invade brain cells, leading to psychological disturbances. This disease among many others, is fatal. When AIDS first came out the warnings were when a Los Angeles physician noticed many symptoms from young men in California who were all members of the “Growing Gay Community.” The first published case was found by the Centers for Disease Control on the fifth of June in 1981. By 1982 the AIDS epidemic began to spread vary rapidly, up to ten new cases were diagnosed each week in 1982, by the year of 1984 there were about 100 cases.(Bondi, V . 1996)

Another injury that came about in the 1980’s is RSI otherwise known as Repetitive Stress Injury. Many different daily activities for both children and adults can be the cause of Repetitive Stress Injury, from video games, typing on a computer, hammering nails, doing pushups, and many more. The severe aches people feel and pains resulting from these and other activities can be the start of this Syndrome. Referring back to the book of American Decades, “according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, RSI accounted for nearly half of all 1988 workplace illnesses in private industry, compared to only 18 percent in 1981.” Many meatpackers, text tile workers, data processors, and journalists suffer from this syndrome. (Bondi, V. 1996)

Next was a problem that many teens do deal with today in 2009, teen pregnancy. Also other things that occurred were adolescent childbearing and teen parenting. Another thing involving teens that many still deal with today is Alcohol Related Teenage Deaths and also Premature Deaths. From 1980-1985 there were about eight deaths in people younger than fifteen-years old. From age fifteen to the age of nineteen there were around two hundred and seventy six deaths, fifty two of these deaths were dealing with alcohol abuse. Also many deaths throughout the eighty’s were caused by drunk drivers in motor vehicle accidents, drowning, shootings, carbon monoxide inhalation, hanging, drugs or poisoning by chemicals, falling from heights, fires and other things. (Damon T. Arnold, M.M. (n.d.) )

Besides deaths, other things happened for the better in the 1980s. Many different things were invented that could save peoples lives, along with different technologies. One thing that was invented was a surgery procedure that is still used today that many Americans may need and some even get is when they get a pacemaker for their heart. This was very popular in 1982. More than 130,000 Americans underwent the surgery to get a pacemaker. This device then cost from $600-$900 to make, the hospitals bill from $2,000 to $5,000 a piece. All of this information and also the coming information refer back to the book of American Decades, the Department of Health and Human services investigators estimated that as much as half of the 2 Billion Medicare spent on pacemaker operations each year may have been a waste. Some of the patients that got this pacemaker surgery didn’t exactly need it and was unnecessary.

Along with a pacemaker, other different medical technologies and medicines were invented in the 1980’s. One thing was new lasers for surgery and genetic engineering. Genetic engineering was exposed to make products such as insulin for diabetes and to learn more about human biology. Many Americans continued their involvement in approaches to health dealing with stress-related problems. In this decade some of the majority of patients ended up suffering from chronic or stress-related complaints, which could be headaches and backaches.

In conclusion, the decade of the 1980’s had a big impact on both medicine and health in peoples lives, from different diseases coming about that are still around today, and to different technologies and surgeries like the pace maker. A lot of the things that were just coming about in the 1980’s are still used around the world today.